

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicant, pursuant to revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, submits the following amendments to the claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A method for ranking a set of alternatives according to likelihood ~~process for emulating human decision-making on a computer having a processor and a storage device connected to the processor~~, comprising:

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(a) configuring, in one or a plurality of electronic databases ~~data-bases~~ stored in a ~~the~~ storage device of a ~~the~~ computer, a set of alternatives ~~possibility set comprising a plurality of alternative possibilities~~, a query set comprising at least one ~~a~~ query, and a set of primary bias values ~~provided by an expert having knowledge of the alternatives~~, wherein each primary bias value is associated with a particular alternative of the set of alternatives, and reflects at least one human ~~the expert's~~ prior ~~conception of the relative-degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative relative to others other alternatives in the possibility set;~~

(b) inputting a user's response to the query into the computer; and

(c) ranking, using a software program stored on the storage device that is operative with a ~~the~~ processor of the computer to receive and process the user's response, the alternatives ~~set of alternative possibilities~~ according to relative likelihood, based at least in part on the set of primary bias values, ~~whereby a decision, comprising the set of ranked alternatives, is provided.~~

7. (Currently amended) The method ~~process~~ of claim 6, wherein ranking the set of alternatives further ~~alternative possibilities~~ comprises querying the one or more ~~electronic~~ databases ~~data-bases~~ to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the ~~determine, based on the response to the query and the set of primary bias values,~~ a set of corresponding secondary bias values, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative of the set of alternatives, and reflects the expert ~~expert's~~ prior ~~conception of the relative-degree of predictive value of the query~~ and response ~~for the particular alternative relative~~

to ~~others~~ other alternatives in the possibility set, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.

AB 8. (Currently amended) The method process of claim 7, wherein generating determining the set of secondary bias values involves increasing, decreasing or conserving the corresponding primary bias values based on the response to the query.

A2 9. (Currently amended) The method process of claim 7, wherein the query set comprises a plurality of queries, and wherein ranking the alternatives ~~in the possibility set~~ involves summing and averaging of at least one of the primary and ~~or~~ secondary bias values.

10. (Currently amended) The method process of claim 7, wherein generating determining a set of corresponding secondary bias values, and ranking the alternatives ~~in the possibility set~~ is achieved, at least in part, by using algorithm 42 (ELICIT™) ~~an ELICIT™ “Algorithm 42” core algorithm to process one or more of the primary or secondary bias values.~~

11. (Currently amended) The method process of claim 6, wherein the set of alternatives ~~possibility set~~ is a set of alternate medical diagnoses or conditions, wherein the expert is a medical expert, and wherein ranking the alternatives ~~in the possibility set, based on the primary bias values,~~ provides a list of alternate medical diagnoses or conditions ~~diagnosis comprising the set of alternate medical diagnoses, ranked according to likelihood.~~

12. (Currently amended) A computer apparatus for ranking a set of alternatives according to likelihood ~~facilitating emulation of human decision making~~, comprising:

(a) a computer having comprising a processor and at least one a storage device connected thereto to the processor;

(b) a database of alternatives, comprising a stored set of alternatives ~~possibility set database~~ ~~stored on the storage device, wherein the possibility set database comprises a plurality of alternative possibilities;~~

(c) a database of queries, comprising a stored set of at least one query ~~query set database~~ ~~stored on the storage device, wherein the query set database comprises a query;~~

AB (d) a primary bias value database, comprising a stored set of primary bias values, wherein each primary bias value data set stored on the storage device, wherein the primary bias values are provided by an expert having knowledge of the alternative possibilities, and wherein each primary bias value is associated with a particular alternative of the set of alternatives, and reflects at least one human the expert's prior conception of the relative-degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative relative to others other alternatives in the possibility set; and

AV (e) a stored software program stored on the storage device for controlling the processor, wherein (i) the program is operative with the processor to receive and process a user's response to the a query, and to rank the alternatives according to relative likelihood based, at least in part, on the set of primary bias values (ii) determine, based on the response to the query and the set of primary bias values, a set of corresponding secondary bias values, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative, and reflects the expert's conception of the relative degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative relative to other alternatives in the possibility set, (iii) rank the alternatives in the possibility set, based on the secondary bias values, to provide a decision comprising the set of alternative possibilities, ranked according to likelihood, and (iv) present the decision to the user.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a user database, comprising user information stored on the storage device, wherein the program is operative with the processor to store, access and update user information in the user database, and update user information when new user information is received.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13 12, wherein the program is further operative with the processor to track the user information.

15. A method, process for emulating human decision making over a wide-area network, for ranking a set of alternatives according to likelihood, comprising:

(a) configuring, in one or a plurality of electronic databases data bases of a server, a set of alternatives possibility set comprising a plurality of alternative possibilities, a query set comprising at least one a query, and a set of primary bias values provided by an expert having knowledge of the

alternatives, wherein each primary bias value is associated with a particular alternative of the set of alternatives, and reflects at least one human ~~the~~ expert's prior conception of the relative degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative relative to others ~~other alternatives in the possibility set~~;

A3 (b) inputting a user's response to the query into a computer through a user subsystem;

(c) transmitting the user's response to the server over the wide-area network;

A2 (d) ranking, using a software program that is operative with a processor of the server to receive and process the user's response, the alternatives ~~set of alternative possibilities~~ according to relative likelihood, based at least in part on the set of primary bias values; and

(e) transmitting the ranked set of alternatives ~~alternative possibilities~~ to the user subsystem over the wide-area network, whereby the set of alternatives is ranked according to likelihood ~~a decision, comprising the set of ranked alternatives, is provided.~~

16. (Currently amended) The method ~~process~~ of claim 15, wherein ranking the alternatives ~~further set of alternative possibilities~~ comprises querying the one or more electronic databases ~~data bases~~ of the server to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the ~~determine, based on the response to the query and the set of primary bias values, a set of corresponding secondary bias values~~, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative of the set of alternatives, and reflects the expert ~~expert's~~ prior conception of the relative degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative relative to others ~~other alternatives in the possibility set~~, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein generating ~~determining~~ the ~~set of~~ secondary bias values involves increasing, decreasing or conserving the corresponding primary bias values based on the response to the query.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the query set comprises a plurality of queries, and wherein ranking the alternatives ~~in the possibility set~~ involves summing and averaging of at least one of the primary and ~~or~~ secondary bias values.

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19. (Currently amended) The method process of claim 16, wherein generating determining a set of corresponding secondary bias values, and ranking the alternatives ~~in the possibility set~~ is achieved, at least in part, by using algorithm 42 (ELICIT™) an ELICIT™ ~~“Algorithm 42” core algorithm to process one or more of the primary or secondary bias values.~~

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20. (Currently amended) The method process of claim 15, wherein the set of alternatives ~~possibility set~~ is a set of alternate medical diagnoses or conditions, wherein the expert is a medical expert, and wherein ranking the alternatives ~~in the possibility set, based on the primary bias values,~~ provides a list of alternate medical diagnoses or conditions ~~diagnosis comprising the set of alternate medical diagnoses,~~ ranked according to likelihood.

21. (Currently amended) A computer network apparatus for ranking a set of alternatives according to likelihood ~~facilitating emulation of human decision making~~, comprising:

(a) a server having comprising a processor and at lease one a storage device connected to the processor;

(b) a database of alternatives, comprising a stored set of alternatives ~~possibility set database stored on the storage device, wherein the possibility set database comprises a plurality of alternative possibilities;~~

(c) a database of queries, comprising a stored set of at least one query ~~query set database stored on the storage device, wherein the query set database comprises a query;~~

(d) a primary bias value database, comprising a stored set of primary bias values, wherein each primary bias value ~~data set stored on the storage device, wherein the primary bias values are provided by an expert having knowledge of the alternative possibilities, and wherein each primary bias value is associated with a particular alternative~~ of the set of alternatives, and reflects at least one human the expert's prior ~~conception of the relative-degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative relative to~~ others ~~other alternatives in the possibility set; and~~

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(e) a stored software program ~~stored on the storage device for controlling the processor,~~ wherein (i) ~~the program is operative with the processor to receive and process, from a user subsystem, a user's response to the a query, and to rank the alternatives according to relative likelihood based, at least in part, on the set of primary bias values, for~~ (ii) ~~determine, based on the response to the query and the set of primary bias values, a set of corresponding secondary bias values, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative, and reflects the expert's conception of the relative degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative relative to other alternatives in the possibility set,~~ (iii) ~~rank the alternatives in the possibility set, based on the secondary bias values, to provide a decision comprising the set of alternative possibilities, ranked according to likelihood, and~~ (iv) ~~transmit transmission the decision to the user subsystem.~~

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a user database, comprising user information ~~stored on the storage device,~~ wherein the program is operative with the processor to store, access and update ~~user information in the user database, and update user information~~ when new user information is received.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the program is further operative with the processor to track the user information.

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24. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein ranking the set of alternatives further comprises querying at least one database to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the response to the query, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative of the set of alternatives, and reflects the expert prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query and response for the particular alternative relative to others, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein ranking the set of alternatives further comprises querying at least one database to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the response to the query, wherein each secondary bias

A4 value is associated with a particular alternative of the set of alternatives, and reflects the expert prior
P3 conception of the degree of predictive value of the query and response for the particular alternative
relative to others, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at
least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.
